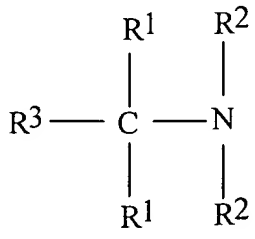
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A liquid bleaching composition comprising an organic substance which forms a complex with a transition metal, the complex catalysing bleaching of a substrate by atmospheric oxygen without use or consumption of aldehydes, and a liquid carrier or solvent, wherein the composition allows at least 50% of any bleaching of the substrate to be effected by oxygen sourced from the air and is substantially devoid of peroxygen bleach or a peroxy-based or -generating bleach system.

Claim 2 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic substance comprises a pentadentate ligand of the general formula (B):



(B)

wherein

each R^1, R^2 independently represents $-R^4-R^5$, R^3 represents hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl, or $-R^4-R^5$,

each R^4 independently represents a single bond or optionally substituted alkylene, alkenylene, oxyalkylene, aminoalkylene, alkylene ether, carboxylic ester or carboxylic amide, and

each R^5 independently represents an optionally N-substituted aminoalkyl group or an optionally substituted heteroaryl group selected from pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, pyrimidinyl, triazolyl and thiazolyl.

Claim 3 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 2, wherein the ligand is N,N-bis(pyridin-2-yl-methyl)-1-,1-bis(pyridin-2-yl)-1-aminoethane.

Claim 4 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the medium has a pH value in the range from pH 6 to 11.

Claim 5 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 4, wherein the medium has a pH value in the range from pH 7 to 10.

Claim 6 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 4, wherein the medium is substantially devoid of a transition metal sequestrant.

Claim 7 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 6, wherein the medium further comprises a surfactant.

Claim 8 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 4, wherein the medium further comprises a builder.

Claim 9 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic substance comprises a preformed complex of a ligand and a transition metal.

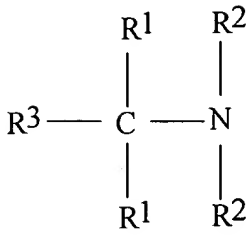
Claim 10 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic substance comprises a free ligand that complexes with a transition metal present in the water.

Claim 11 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic substance comprises a free ligand that complexes with a transition metal present in the substrate.

Claim 12 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic substance comprises a composition of a free ligand or a transition metal-substitutable metal-ligand complex, and a source of transition metal.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of bleaching a substrate comprising applying to the substrate a liquid bleaching composition that comprises an organic substance which forms a complex with a transition metal, the complex catalysing bleaching of the substrate by atmospheric oxygen without use or consumption of aldehydes, and a liquid carrier or solvent, wherein the composition allows at least 50% of any bleaching of the substrate to be effected by oxygen sourced from the air and is substantially devoid of peroxygen bleach or a peroxy-based or -generating bleach system.

Claim 14 (original): A method to claim 13, wherein the organic substance comprises a pentadentate ligand of the general formula (B):



(B)

wherein

each R^1, R^2 independently represents $-R^4-R^5$, R^3 represents hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, aryl or arylalkyl, or $-R^4-R^5$,

each R^4 independently represents a single bond or optionally substituted alkylene, alkenylene, oxyalkylene, aminoalkylene, alkylene ether, carboxylic ester or carboxylic amide, and

each R^5 independently represents an optionally N-substituted aminoalkyl group or an optionally substituted heteroaryl group selected from pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, benzimidazolyl, pyrimidinyl, triazolyl and thiazolyl.

Claim 15 (original): A method according to claim 14, wherein the ligand is N,N-bis(pyridin-2-yl-methyl)-1,1-bis(pyridin-2-yl)-1-aminoethane.

Claim 16 (original): A method according to claim 14, wherein the method is conducted in a medium having a pH value in the range from pH 6 to 11.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of treating a textile by contacting the textile with a liquid bleaching composition that comprises an organic substance which forms a complex with a transition metal, the complex catalysing bleaching by atmospheric oxygen without use or consumption of aldehydes, and a liquid carrier or solvent, wherein bleaching by the composition in a wash liquor is to at least 50% effected by oxygen sourced from the air and the composition is substantially devoid of peroxygen bleach or a peroxy-based or -generating bleach system, whereby the complex catalyses bleaching of the textile by atmospheric oxygen after the textile has been removed from the wash liquor and dried.

Claim 19 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic substance comprises a pentadentate ligand.

Claim 20 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 19, wherein the pentadentate ligand is in the form of an iron complex.

Claim 21 (original): A liquid bleaching composition according to claim 19 having a pH value in the range from pH 7 to 10 comprising N,N-bis(pyridin-2-yl-methyl)-1,1-bis(pyridin-2-yl)-1-aminoethane, the composition substantially devoid of a transition metal sequestrant having a higher binding affinity for iron ions than N,N-bis(pyridin-2-yl-methyl)-1,1-bis(pyridin-2-yl)-1-aminoethane.

Claim 22 (previously added): A liquid composition according to claim 1 wherein the composition allows at least 90% of any bleaching of the substrate to be effected by oxygen sourced from the air.

Claim 23 (previously added): A method according to claim 13 wherein the composition allows at least 90% of any bleaching of the substrate to be effected by oxygen sourced from the air.

Claim 24 (previously added): A method according to claim 18 wherein bleaching by the composition in the wash liquor is to at least 90% effected by oxygen sourced from the air.

Claim 25 (new): A method of bleaching a substrate comprising:

(i) providing a liquid bleaching composition comprising an organic substance which forms a complex with a transition metal, and a liquid carrier or solvent, the composition being substantially devoid of peroxygen bleach or a peroxy-based or -generating bleach system;

(ii) applying the liquid bleaching composition in a wash liquor to the substrate whereby the complex catalyzing bleaching of the substrate by atmospheric oxygen without use or consumption of aldehydes, to an extent of at least 50% of any bleaching of the substrate being effected by oxygen sourced from the air;

(iii) allowing the complex to deposit on the substrate;

(iv) removing the substrate from the wash liquor;

(v) drying the substrate; and

(vi) further bleaching the substrate in a dried state through action of the complex in combination with atmospheric oxygen to produce the further bleaching.